

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/894,663

Examiner

Eric V. Woods

Applicant(s)

NAEGLE ET AL.

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 27 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-18,20-24,26 and 31-41.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments – see Remarks pages 1-5 – filed 27 April 2005, with respect to various objections and rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive as set forth below, with the specific rejections and objections that have been withdrawn listed below.
2. All rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, stand withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments and cancellations of affected claims.
3. All claim objections have been corrected via amendment, and they all stand withdrawn.
4. The rejections of claims 2, 19, 25, and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) stand withdrawn as applicant has canceled those claims.
5. The rejection of claims 1, 9-10, 15-17, and 23 (and any other claims rejected previously) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) stand withdrawn as applicant has incorporated the limitations from the dependent claims indicated allowable into the parent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 3-18, 20-24, 26, and 31-41 are allowed.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Adder blocks having the specific traits recited above are not found in the prior art. Specifically, adder blocks containing both multiplexers connected with select bits being passed additionally through another logic gate (an OR) and being passed to the next stage of the adder tree, as well as data valid signals that are configured the same way

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as the "winner-take-all" signals are not found in the prior art. That is, the combination of multiple control signals (e.g. data valid and winner-take-all) has not been seen or found in the prior art.

8. Applicant's newly added claims are merely combinations and permutations of various dependent claims already indicated allowable, and examiner believes (as stated by applicant in Remarks page 4) that such claims are patentable for the reasons set forth above.

9. Also, examiner again points out to applicant that US Pre-grant Publication 2002/0059509 and various patents in that family teach similar subject matter but have a later filing date, and there is significant similarity, at least in the recited and shown structures.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 5,923,779 to Ohmi et al, which teaches the use of WTA circuits in image buffers; US 6,907,412 to Pao et al, which teaches the use of WTA methods as applied to mapping; and US PGPub 2005/0004883 to Hutchinson et al, which teaches a WTA circuit used in a manner similar to that recited by applicant in Fig. 1 as implemented in hardware.

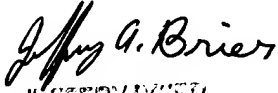
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric V. Woods whose telephone number is 571-272-7775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:30 alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on 571-272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric Woods


JEFFERY A. BRIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 21, 2005